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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

TOKELAU

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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TOKELAU 1/

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In July 1994, a United Nations visiting mission was dispatched to Tokelau at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, which was conveyed in a letter dated 20 May 1993 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/1162), and in conformity with the Special Committee's decision to accept that invitation (A/AC.109/PV.1417). The report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Tokelau, 1994 (A/AC.109/2009) contains detailed information on political, economic and social conditions in the Territory, as well as on its future political status. The present working paper is an update of the working paper on Tokelau prepared by the Secretariat in 1994 (A/AC.109/1193).

II. GENERAL

2. Tokelau, a Non-Self-Governing Territory administered by New Zealand, consists of three small atolls in the South Pacific (Nukunonu, 4.7 square kilometres; Fakaofo, 4.0 square kilometres; and Atafu, 3.5 square kilometres) with a total land area of approximately 12.2 square kilometres. Nukunonu, the central atoll, is 92 kilometres from Atafu and 64 kilometres from Fakaofo. Western Samoa, 480 kilometres to the south, is the nearest sizeable neighbour.

3. Tokelauans are Polynesians with linguistic, family and cultural links with Western Samoa. According to the 1991 census, the total population of Tokelau was 1,577, a decrease of 113 compared with 1986. There were 543 inhabitants on Atafu, 437 on Nukunonu and 597 on Fakaofo. The constraints of atoll life and limited opportunities have led some 3,000 Tokelauans to settle abroad, particularly in New Zealand and Western Samoa.

III. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. Constitutional developments

4. Detailed information on the Tokelau Constitution as well as constitutional developments is contained in the previous working paper on Tokelau (A/AC.109/1193, paras. 3-26) and in the report of the Visiting Mission (A/AC.109/2009).

5. According to the administering Power, the constitution of a self-governing Tokelau is currently under consideration by the people of the Territory both as a matter of importance in itself and also as an aspect of self-determination in terms of the Charter of the United Nations. The related preparatory work has included the following events: a working visit by the Council of Faipule (joint Chairmen of the General Fono (Council)) to New Zealand (29 September-7 October 1994); a study tour by the Council of Faipule to Niue and Tuvalu (10-24 October 1994); meetings at Apia between the Administrator of Tokelau and the Council (October 1994); a visit to Tokelau by the Administrator

(2-8 November 1994) for meetings with the Council of Elders (Taupulega) on each atoll; and a meeting of the General Fono (24 November-26 November 1994). In his statements on the subject, the Administrator emphasized that Tokelau now had more flexibility and control over its constitutional agenda and that the close relations established between Tokelau and the administering Power would be maintained.

6. In November 1994, the General Fono decided, on the basis of the reports on constitutional developments submitted by the Council of Faipule, to establish a Special Committee on Constitutional Developments. At its first meeting, in April 1995, the Committee established the following terms of reference for its work: to consider the organization of the Government of Tokelau with a view to its future; to prepare proposals on a national governing body, a standing committee, the laws of Tokelau, the court system, the public service, the finance and audit system, land, human rights and all other constitutional matters; to discuss the proposals in each village; and to make recommendations to the General Fono. The first report of the Committee is to be submitted to the General Fono in June 1995.

7. During the period under review, the territorial Government organized a series of workshops on each atoll on the issue of constitutional developments.

B. Political developments

8. Detailed information on political developments in the Territory is contained in the previous working paper on Tokelau (A/AC.109/1193) and in the report of the Visiting Mission (A/AC.109/2009).

C. Public service

9. The Tokelau Public Service is composed of departments of administration and finance, health and environment, education, agriculture and fisheries, public works, transport and communications, and the Office of the Council of Faipule.

10. In December 1994, the New Zealand-based Tokelau Public Service Commissioner, together with his Tokelau counterpart, held a series of meetings to discuss the restructuring of the public service. As a result of those discussions, the Commissioners initiated a review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Tokelau Public Service. The review was completed in March 1995 and a report on the outcome is expected to be presented to the General Fono in June 1995. The Commissioners emphasized the need for additional training programmes for the Tokelau Public Service.

IV. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

11. Detailed information on economic conditions in the Territory is contained in the previous working paper on Tokelau (A/AC.109/1193) and in the report of the Visiting Mission (A/AC.109/2009).

12. In February 1995, at a meeting attended by representatives of Tokelau, New Zealand, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a project document for the Tokelau telecommunications services was finalized. The objective of the project is to establish a reliable, efficient and sustainable telecommunications infrastructure based on satellite technology. The four project outputs are: three satellite earth stations and exchanges; adequate customer access networks on each atoll; a viable institutional structure comprising appropriately trained staff; and alternative strategies. The cost of the project is estimated at NZ$ 3.25 million. Capital costs are to be shared by New Zealand (NZ$ 1,109,000) and Tokelau (NZ$ 250,000). The technical assistance component is to be shared by UNDP (US$ 138,000), ITU (US$ 54,000) and Tokelau (NZ$ 150,000). The project is to be completed within 28 months.

V. SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

13. Detailed information on social and educational conditions in the Territory is contained in the previous working paper on Tokelau (A/AC.109/1193) and in the report of the Visiting Mission (A/AC.109/2009).

VI. FUTURE STATUS OF THE TERRITORY

A. Position of the administering Power

14. The Government of New Zealand is committed to assisting Tokelau to attain a greater degree of self-government and economic self-sufficiency. The New Zealand Government has regularly reminded the representatives of Tokelau of the desirability of continued progress towards self-government. It is the stated intention of the administering Power to be guided by the wishes of the Tokelauan people.

B. Position of the people of Tokelau

15. The issue of self-determination is now under active consideration by the people of Tokelau, who have expressed a strong preference for a status of free association with New Zealand (A/AC.109/2009, para. 106).

VII. ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16. On 9 December 1994, the General Assembly adopted without a vote resolution 49/47, entitled "Question of Tokelau". In that resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Tokelau to self-determination and independence in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960. It expressed its deep appreciation to the Ulu-o-Tokelau (highest authority of Tokelau), the Elders of Tokelau, the Council of Faipule, the pulueku (village mayors) and all other representatives of the people of Tokelau, as well as the administering Power, for the courtesies, cooperation and assistance extended to the Visiting Mission.

The Assembly took note of the solemn declaration read by the Ulu-o-Tokelau, on behalf of the people and their leadership, indicating a strong preference for a future status of free association with New Zealand. It noted that the people of Tokelau, through the General Fono, the Council of Faipule and other institutions, had expressed their readiness to assume full governmental responsibility and to conduct their own affairs within the framework of a constitution which was currently being drafted. It also noted the determination of the people of Tokelau to exercise their right to self-determination following the establishment and effective functioning of all branches of government in accordance with their own constitution. The Assembly welcomed the assurances of the Government of New Zealand to meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and to abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status. It approved the report of the Visiting Mission and requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

Notes

1/ The information contained in the present paper has been derived largely from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of New Zealand under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations in April 1995.

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WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
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OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

AMERICAN SAMOA

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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AMERICAN SAMOA 1/

I. GENERAL

1. American Samoa, a territory administered by the United States of America, is located in the South Pacific approximately 3,700 kilometres south-west of Hawaii and 4,350 kilometres north-east of Australia. It consists of six islands (Tutuila, Aunuu, Ofu, Olosega, Tau and Rose) belonging to the Samoan group. Swains Island, 340 kilometres north of Tutuila, is administered as an integral part of American Samoa. The total land area of the Territory is 197 square kilometres, about 70 per cent of which is covered by dense forest. Lying near the equator, between latitudes 13 and 16 south, American Samoa has a typical tropical climate with a wet and a dry season. Pago Pago, the capital, is located on Tutuila, the largest of the islands, where 90 per cent of the population lives.

2. According to statistics prepared by the Government of American Samoa, the estimated population of the Territory as of 1 July 1993 was 52,900, 2/ an increase of about 13 per cent compared with the official 1990 census (46,773 persons). The current population density is estimated at approximately 255 persons per square kilometre, an average figure for the South Pacific. Over 88 per cent of the residents of the Territory are ethnically Samoan.

3. Because of limited employment opportunities, a large number of American Samoans have emigrated to the United States. It is estimated that some 65,000 live in California and in Washington State, and 20,000 in Hawaii. 3/ Anyone born in American Samoa is a United States national and entitled to a modified United States passport. The only substantial legal difference between a citizen and a national is that the latter, as a non-citizen, cannot vote in United States presidential elections while in the Territory.

II. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

4. American Samoa became an unincorporated Territory of the United States pursuant to a joint congressional resolution of 20 February 1929. By an executive order issued in 1951, the President of the United States placed the administration of the Territory under the Secretary of the Interior. The Territory's first Constitution came into effect in October 1960 following a referendum, and was revised in 1967 and subsequently amended in 1970 and 1977.

5. Since January 1981, American Samoa has elected by direct vote a non-voting delegate to the United States House of Representatives. The current delegate, Mr. Eni F. H. Faleomavaega, was re-elected in November 1994.

6. The Constitution provides for separate executive and legislative branches and an independent judiciary. All American Samoan citizens over 18 years of age are eligible to vote.

Executive

7. The executive branch consists of a Governor and a Lieutenant-Governor elected for four years by universal adult suffrage. The Governor is responsible for executing those United States laws and portions of the United States Constitution applicable to American Samoa, as well as the American Samoan code and executive rules. He has general supervision of all operations within the Territory. The current Governor, Mr. A. P. Lutali, was elected in November 1992 concurrently with the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Tauese Sunia. 4/

Legislature

8. There is a bicameral legislature, known as the Fono, comprising a Senate and a House of Representatives with identical powers. The Fono may pass laws with respect to all local affairs, provided its laws are not inconsistent with United States laws in force in the Territory or with United States treaties or international agreements. The Fono convenes for two 45-day sessions a year.

Judiciary

9. The judiciary consists of a high court with jurisdiction throughout the Territory, a district court and several village courts. There are three divisions of the High Court: (a) appellate; (b) trial; and (c) land and title. Since American Samoa is not part of a federal judicial district or circuit, there are no statutory provisions for appealing decisions of the High Court.

III. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

10. American Samoa suffers from the same economic constraints, such as geographical isolation and scarce resources, common to most island societies in the South Pacific. Its economy depends on the tuna fish canning industry. Prospects for agricultural development are limited owing to the small percentage of land suitable for cultivation. With respect to other industries, only tourism offers good potential for growth.

11. In 1992, the latest year for which official government figures are available, exports amounted to $317.7 million and imports totalled $418.0 million, resulting in a trade deficit of about $100.3 million. By far the largest trading partner of American Samoa is the United States, followed by Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Fiji. Imports are mainly food products, fuel and oil, machine parts, building materials, textiles and clothing; 95 per cent of the exports are canned tuna. 5/

B. Public service

12. According to the American Samoa Statistical Digest, 1993, the Government of American Samoa continued to be one of the largest employers in the Territory, accounting for 4,475 persons, or approximately 30 per cent of the employed

labour force. Most of the employees in the public service were American Samoans.

C. Land tenure and agriculture

13. Most land is owned in common by Samoan families and is the traditional basis for family organization. Under the Samoan Land Tenure Act, all land except freehold land (approximately 15 per cent of the total) is inalienable to any person who is less than one-half American Samoan. Without written approval from the Governor, it is unlawful for any matai (chief) to alienate any family lands or to lease such lands for more than 55 years.

14. Apart from freehold land, the main categories are government land (22.8 per cent); church-owned land (13.6 per cent); communal land subject to the native land tenure system (25.1 per cent); and individually owned land, acquired either by court grant after 1900 or through the transfer of communal land with the approval of the Governor (24.5 per cent).

15. During the period under review, sales from the local farmers' market indicated positive growth in the volume of vegetables sold. However, the volume of bananas, taro, breadfruits, coconuts and yams sold on the local market showed a major decline in 1992. 6/

D. Industry

Tuna processing

16. American Samoa's tuna-processing industry, which is the fourth largest in the world, accounts for approximately 20 per cent of total United States tuna production. An Indonesian-owned company, the Van Camp Sea Food Company, and a United States-owned company, Star Kist Samoa, Inc. (H. J. Heinz), operate two large-scale tuna canneries at Pago Pago, which are supplied by both Asian and United States vessels, as well as by a local fleet of small long-line craft.

17. Most of the tuna production is exported to the United States. In 1992, out of a total of $317.7 million in exports from American Samoa, canned tuna exported to the United States amounted to $303.2 million. In the same year, the two canneries provided employment for 4,058 persons and accounted for the bulk of local tax revenues. 7/

18. In 1994, Star Kist was fined $1.8 million by the United States Occupation, Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for safety and health violations at its American Samoa fish processing plant. The most serious violations reportedly involved the company's failure to safeguard machines and the lack of a corporate strategy to protect workers' safety. OSHA indicates that Star Kist has already made significant progress towards correcting the problems. 8/

Other

19. Other industrial activities in American Samoa are mostly service-oriented. There are a number of small factories processing soap, perfume and alcohol. In 1992, there were 2,118 registered businesses in the Territory, of which retail trade accounted for 34 per cent, and transport and public utilities, for 18 per cent. The remaining industrial activities involved construction, wholesale trade and finance and insurance operations.

20. Efforts to attract new industry to the Territory include tax cuts, import-duty concessions and special lease rates at a large government industrial park located near the airport.

E. Transport and communications

Land

21. There are approximately 150 kilometres of paved roads and 200 kilometres of secondary roads in American Samoa. In 1992, there were 5,518 registered vehicles, 88 per cent of which were privately owned. There is a non-scheduled bus service.

Sea

22. Several shipping companies provide regular service to Pago Pago from Asia, other South Pacific ports and the United States. There is a daily inter-island cargo service and a regular ferry service between American Samoa and Western Samoa. Swains Island is accessible only by boat. Rose Atoll can be visited only by permit since it is a National Wildlife Refuge.

23. In 1992, a total of 927 vessels entered American Samoa, including fishing boats, freighters, yachts and cruise ships.

Air

24. Pago Pago International Airport is regularly served by a number of airlines which link American Samoa with Hawaii and the United States mainland, as well as with Australia, New Zealand and other countries in the South Pacific. The airport has two paved runways, 2,743 metres and 1,829 metres long, respectively. There are also smaller airstrips on the islands of Ofu and Tau.

Radio, television and telephone links

25. American Samoa, through the overseas Communications Satellite corporate link, has direct dialling to most countries. In 1992, the Territory had 8,800 telephones (an increase of 2.3 per cent from 1991), as well as 10 telex and 316 facsimile subscribers. 2/

Newspapers

26. There are several weekly newspapers in the Territory in both the English and the Samoan languages. There is also a daily newspaper, the Samoa News.

F. Tourism

27. Despite the Government's efforts to encourage tourism, the industry remains relatively small. In 1992, 4,710 tourists, a decrease of almost 31 per cent from the 6,830 visitors in 1991, visited the Territory. They were mostly from the United States, Australia and New Zealand. There are five hotels and motels in American Samoa. The Government is the majority shareholder in the main hotel, which has 163 rooms.

G. Financial institutions

28. The Amerika Samoa Bank and a branch of the Bank of Hawaii Federal Credit Union offer complete commercial banking services. The Development Bank of American Samoa, a non-commercial enterprise owned by the Government, issues guarantees and loans for development projects.

29. In October 1993, the National Credit Union Administration, a federal regulatory agency, seized American Samoa's only government employees federal credit union because a large number of delinquencies had led to its financial failure. The union defaulted on $5 million in various loans to the institution and staff expenses. The agency liquidated it in July 1994. 10/

IV. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A. Labour

30. The labour force in the Territory, which has been steadily increasing since 1980, currently stands at about 15,957 workers. The two largest employers are the Government and the two tuna canneries, which together provide approximately 63 per cent of the jobs. In 1992, the unemployment rate was 14.6 per cent. 11/

31. American Samoa is one of two United States Territories in which employers are allowed to pay workers less than the mainland minimum wage to ensure compatibility with the prevailing cost of living. Approximately 40 per cent of the labour force is from Western Samoa; there are also Tongans, Koreans, Japanese, Chinese and United States citizens working in the Territory. The high proportion of foreign labour comes about because the shortage of well-paying jobs in American Samoa leads many young people to emigrate to Hawaii and the United States mainland. Their place in the Territory is often filled by non-nationals, mostly from Western Samoa (see also para. 32).

B. Immigration

32. American Samoa has its own immigration laws. In 1985, the territorial Government set quotas to regulate the number of foreigners entering the Territory annually to work. The quotas allow the admission of 1,000 persons from Western Samoa and 400 from other countries. Only American Samoans, United States citizens and nationals and licensed companies can sponsor foreign workers.

33. In 1994, 1,200 persons were deported from American Samoa, 250 of them forcibly. Some 80 per cent of the deportees were Western Samoan citizens who had overstayed their visits. Among the balance of overstayers deported in 1994 were Fijians, Tongans, Tuvaluans and Filipinos. 12/

C. Public health

34. The main hospital in the Territory, the Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) Tropical Medical Center, has 140 beds and a staff of 25 physicians. Medical, dental and pharmaceutical services are available 24 hours a day at minimal cost to residents and visitors. For serious cases, off-island treatment, including hospitalization in Guam, Hawaii or the United States mainland is provided free of charge.

35. The Territory continues to experience problems with drug use. The Governor's Council against Drugs, established in 1987, coordinates efforts to eradicate drug use through a drug-control programme with the joint cooperation of the departments of public safety, customs and human resources and the LBJ Medical Center.

D. Crime and crime prevention

36. In 1992, a total of 2,126 offences were reported to the police, a decrease of 3 per cent compared with 1991. The most common offences were disorderly conduct, assault, burglary, larceny, drunken driving and property damage. 13/

E. Housing

37. In 1992, a total of 895 land use and building permits were issued. There were 580 permits for new structures, 141 for extensions, repair or alteration, 2 for government projects and 172 were for all other types of permits. The estimated value of construction for 1992 was $25 million. 14/

V. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

38. The educational system in American Samoa is broadly based on the United States pattern of eight years' attendance at elementary school and four years' enrolment at high school. In 1992, there were a total of 99 private and public educational institutions, with a total enrolment of 16,644 students. About

44 per cent of students were born outside American Samoa. The majority of foreign-born students were from Western Samoa and the United States. 15/

39. American Samoa Community College, established in 1970, offers two-year degree courses in arts and sciences and certificates of proficiency programmes in vocational skills, business, clerical and nursing curricula. In 1985, the College began a one-year certificate programme in agriculture with specialities in crop production and cattle-raising. Programmes in Pacific studies and computer science were also added to the curriculum through a grant from the United States Federal Government. At the end of 1992, the College had 1,174 students. 16/

VI. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS

40. American Samoa is a member of 14 regional organizations, including the South Pacific Commission, the Pacific Basin Development Council, the Pacific Tuna Development Foundation, the Pacific Islands Association, the Asian-South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education, the Pacific Asia Travel Association, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Council of Pacific Arts. It also belongs to such United States organizations as the National and Western Governors' Conferences. The Government of American Samoa has signed memoranda of understanding with the Governments of Western Samoa and Tonga on mutual economic cooperation and has sent trade missions to a number of countries in the Pacific region.

41. In August 1991, American Samoa, together with two other Territories administered by the United States, Guam and the United States Virgin Islands, established the Alliance of Dependent Territories, an organization that seeks to promote friendly relations and economic and technical cooperation among its members. The Alliance will also endeavour to obtain observer status in the United Nations General Assembly.

42. American Samoa participated as an observer in the Preparatory Committee for the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as well as in the Conference itself, which was held in Barbados from 25 April to 6 May 1994.

43. American Samoa belongs to various regional bodies of the United Nations system, including the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Western Pacific and the WHO Western Pacific Regional Centre for the Promotion of Environmental Planning and Applied Studies. The Territory has been an associate member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific since 1988.

VII. FUTURE STATUS OF THE TERRITORY

44. In his statement at the seminar organized by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, held in Papua New Guinea in

June 1993, Mr. Sunia, Lieutenant-Governor of American Samoa, stated that American Samoa preferred to remain a Territory of the United States (see A/AC.109/1159, paras. 25-31).

45. On 9 December 1994, the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/46 B, a consolidated resolution on 10 Non-Self-Governing Territories, section I of which was specifically devoted to American Samoa.

Notes

1/ The information contained in the present working paper was derived from published reports.

2/ American Samoa Statistical Digest, 1993, p. 15.

3/ United States Department of the Interior, Fact Sheet, August 1991.

4/ Pacific Magazine (Honolulu), January/February 1993, p. 9.

5/ American Samoa Statistical Digest, 1993, p. 189.

6/ Ibid., p. 170.

7/ Ibid., pp. 189, 193 and 134.

8/ United Press International, 15 December 1994.

9/ American Samoa Statistical Digest, 1993, pp. 159-160.

10/ American Banker, 5 November 1993, p. 8; and ibid., 22 July 1994, p. 7.

11/ American Samoa Statistical Digest, 1993, pp. 133 and 134.

12/ Agence France Presse, 1 December 1994.

13/ American Samoa Statistical Digest, 1993, p. 73.

14/ Ibid., pp. 89 and 99.

15/ Ibid., pp. 58 and 59.

16/ Ibid., p. 65.

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AND PEOPLES

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE PLAN OF ACTION

Caribbean regional seminar, to be held at Port-of-Spain from 3 to 5 July 1995

Guidelines

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and a Plan of Action "aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism" (see A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1), in which, inter alia, it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

2. In its resolution 46/70 of 11 December 1991 on cooperation and coordination of specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly stated that "in addition to general problems facing developing countries, the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, many of which are small island Territories, also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens".

3. In its resolution 49/89 of 16 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the Special Committee should carry out, during its 1995 session, a mid-term review of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in the context of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

II. PLACE AND DATES OF THE SEMINAR

4. The Caribbean Regional Seminar will be held at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 3 to 5 July 1995.

III. PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR

5. The purpose of the Seminar is to assess political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories particularly with the view to evaluating their evolution toward self-determination. Special attention will be paid to the examination of the options for self-determination open to the populations of the Territories concerned in accordance with the

Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, as well as the Plan of Action.

6. The topics to be considered by the Seminar will assist the Special Committee in a realistic evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar will give pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. Considering the particular importance of the review of the Plan of Action at the mid-point of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and in the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the Seminar will invite representatives of the peoples and the administrating Powers from the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions. It will also secure the participation of organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of these Territories and of selected non-governmental organizations with long and established experience in island Territories. Special emphasis will also be placed on the participation of organizations of the United Nations system with a view to formulating programmes of assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories aimed at enhancing their viable and sustainable development.

7. The contributions of the participants will serve as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar, which will assist the Special Committee in its consideration of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories during its 1995 session.

8. Participants will be required to submit papers, which will also include conclusions and recommendations/suggestions on the topics specified in the agenda as they pertain to Non-Self-Governing Territories on the list of the Special Committee.

IV. AGENDA OF THE SEMINAR

9. The agenda of the Seminar is as follows:

1. Political questions:

   (a) Self-determination: concept, options and its application in small island Non-Self-Governing Territories;

   (b) Examination of options of self-determination available to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations:

      (i) Independence;

      (ii) Free association with an independent State;

      (iii) Integration with an independent State;

(iv) Association with an organization (regional/subregional) of independent States;

(v) Economically sustainable autonomy;

(vi) Other possible options.

2. Economic and social questions:

(a) Economic and social advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories and their impact on the exercise of the right to self-determination;

(b) Development of tourism: its impact on the economic and social sectors and on the environment;

(c) The issue of drug trafficking and money laundering;

(d) Human resources development and the consequences of emigration and immigration;

(e) The role of the specialized agencies, international and regional organizations in the economic and social advancement of the Territories;

(f) Access of Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system;

(g) Particular areas in which regional cooperation requires strengthening by both the Territories concerned and international agencies: preservation and protection of marine and other natural resources from over-exploitation; transport and communications; higher education; research and development; regional pooling arrangements for sharing special skills and expertise; and assistance in the public health area.

3. Environment and development:

(a) Implications for the island Territories of global warming, the rise in the sea level and other ecological hazards;

(b) Local efforts in national disaster preparedness: institutionalization and coordination of disaster relief;

(c) International and regional cooperation in mitigating the effects of natural disasters;

(d) Questions relating to the law of the sea and the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the region.

V. ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

10. The following provisions will govern the organization of the Seminar:

(a) The Seminar will be organized by the Special Committee in accordance with the rules of procedures contained in the annex to the present guidelines;

(b) The Seminar will be conducted by a delegation of the Special Committee consisting of the Chairman and seven other members;

(c) The Seminar may be attended by the following:

(i) Representatives of the host Government;

(ii) Representatives of the administering Powers;

(iii) Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(iv) A representative of the Secretary-General;

(v) Representatives of concerned specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system;

(vi) Representatives of non-governmental organizations based in the region or in the Non-Self-Governing Territories; if not, other territorial entities;

(vii) Experts on Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(viii) Appropriate media representatives.

ANNEX

Rules of procedure

Preamble

The Caribbean Regional Seminar is being held under the terms of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991. The organization of the Seminar and the conduct of its proceedings shall follow the general guidelines set out in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. a/

Rule 1

Responsibility for conducting the Seminar

The Seminar shall be organized by the Special Committee and conducted by the Chairman of the Special Committee, as the Chairman, with the assistance of the Bureau of the Seminar (see rule 2 (a) below).

Rule 2

Officers of the Seminar

(a) The Chairman shall appoint a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur for the Seminar from among the participating members of the Special Committee. The Vice-Chairman will be allocated specific responsibilities by the Chairman. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the Seminar.

(b) The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Seminar, direct its discussions, ensure observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions.

(c) If the Chairman is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman shall preside over the meeting.

Rule 3

Secretariat

(a) The secretariat of the Special Committee shall service the Seminar.

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements regarding the organization of the Seminar.

Rule 4

Languages

The working language of the Seminar shall be English.

Rule 5

Conduct of business

(a) Decisions shall, as a rule, be taken by consensus. Should a vote be required, only representatives of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall be entitled to vote.

(b) Any procedural question with regard to the conduct of business of the Seminar not covered by the present rules shall be decided upon by the Chairman in consultation with the Bureau of the Seminar.

Rule 6

Participation in the Seminar

Participation in the Seminar shall be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations have been addressed by the Chairman of the Special Committee in accordance with the related decision of the General Assembly b/ and whose names appear on the official list of participants drawn up by the Chairman (see also para. 6 of the present guidelines).

Rule 7

Debates and publicity concerning the Seminar

(a) The meetings of the Seminar shall be held in public unless the Chairman decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private.

(b) Statements on behalf of the Seminar to the information media shall be made by the Chairman. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat shall be responsible for the dissemination of information on the Seminar, including the issuance of press releases covering meetings of the Seminar held in public.

(c) Participating non-governmental organizations shall be represented by the person so invited (see rule 6 above), who may make one general statement on issues within the purview of the Committee's mandate and pertaining to those Territories under its consideration during the course of the Seminar.

(d) The Chairman may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker.

(e) During the course of the discussion, the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the list closed. When there are no speakers, the Chairman shall, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the debate closed.

Rule 8

Records

The Seminar shall have sound recordings of its proceedings, which shall be retained in the archives of the United Nations in accordance with established practice.

Rule 9

Report

The members of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall adopt a report on the Seminar, the draft of which shall be prepared by the Rapporteur of the Seminar. The Seminar shall entrust to the Chairman of the Special Committee the task of preparing the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on the basis of the information contained in the report. The report of the Seminar, as well as the draft conclusions and recommendations prepared by the Chairman, shall be submitted to the Special Committee for its consideration and subsequent submission to the appropriate body (bodies).

Notes

a/ A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1.

b/ See A/46/634/Rev.1, para. 22 (c).